

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2007**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Chohany, Freiling, and Braxton. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Assistant City Manager Miller, Department Heads Clayton, Serra and Nester, Economic Development Manager DeWitt, and Assistant City Attorney Workman.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

Victor Smith, 646 Counselors Way, referenced his February 5 letter sent by e-mail to Council and said he would like to read it for the benefit of the public (attached).

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Hampton Roads Sanitation District Update

Ted Henifin, General Manager

Mr. Henifin reported that the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) was formed by referendum in 1940 and serves seventeen cities and counties to meet their wastewater treatment needs. They have nine plants and are working on numerous plant upgrades to meet Chesapeake Bay goals, and will spend \$500 Million over the next four years. HRSD's challenges are meeting the new regulations for the nutrient (phosphorous and nitrogen) limits by 2010, dealing with an ageing and failing infrastructure, implementing a new billing software program, and addressing the regional issue of sanitary sewer overflows. Mr. Henifin concluded by saying that it was a pleasure to speak to Council.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Henifin and said that HRSD serves our region well.

Council members and Mr. Henifin discussed the upgrades and potential costs over a number of years. Increased costs to customers are projected to be eight percent per year over several years. Mr. Henifin said that he would appreciate any support from Council and our local representatives of the Governor's bill in the General Assembly which would provide support for more grant money.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Regional Consent Order Director of Public Works

Dan Clayton

Mr. Clayton said that the Hampton Roads Planning District region is being targeted by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). The Hampton Roads Sanitation District is also a major player in the initiative as well as all locality

collection systems in HRSD. The initiative is being driven by the Clean Water Act, State Water Control Law, and EPS National Wet Weather Enforcement Policy. The Consent Order will detail the requirements that must be met.

Using Powerpoint slides, Mr. Clayton reviewed SSOs in Hampton Roads, the State consent order versus the Federal Decree, Participants, Activities and Roles, Implications, and the Schedule of Major Activities. By June 2007, localities will have to formally approve the Consent Order and the order should be executed by the State about three months later. Most of the extensive technical work and resolution of problems will be done during 2008-2012, but Mr. Clayton emphasized that the work will never be totally done; it is a continuous process. The final Consent Order has been reviewed by the City Attorney and will be brought before Council in the next few months.

Mr. Tuttle noted the low water/sewer rates for city residents, and he hoped that will continue, but it will depend on the work that has to be done over several years.

Council members asked Mr. Clayton about the city's overflow problems, mostly caused from grease and weather. Council requested that he provide projections of increased costs for water and sewer.

Curbside Recycling Under VPPSA Contract **Director of Public Works Dan Clayton**

Mr. Clayton reported that the current recycling contract with Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority (VPPSA) will expire July 1, 2007. Four proposals are being reviewed. The cost of recycling will be more expensive, which means the city's annual cost will increase from \$84,000 to \$108,000. VPPSA is working with the current provider. Mr. Clayton said that Stephen Geissler, Executive Director of VPPSA was present.

Mr. Clayton said that there was some concern about jurisdictions pulling out of the Authority, but he was not sure at this point. Mr. Tuttle added that some jurisdictions recycle at drop points, unlike the city which has curb side pick-up.

Mr. Haulman requested to see options and the associated costs. Mr. Tuttle said that Williamsburg wants to continue curb side service.

Mr. Geissler responded to Mr. Haulman that curbside collection in 2005 collected 14,000 tons of material versus 1,500 tons collected by the drop off program. He explained the process for single stream recycling and multiple bins recycling. Single stream recycling is the way to go, but it is more expensive and requires more equipment.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the gentlemen for the report.

Annual Citizen Survey **Assistant City Manager Jodi Miller**

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated February 1, 2007, and attached Executive Summary of the Citizen Survey. Ms. Miller said that this was the twelfth in-house survey. This year, 88 of 300 surveys were returned (29% response rate). The eleven-question survey was posted on the city's website. Using Powerpoint slides, she reviewed the survey results (attached)

- Survey Demographics
- Overall Weighted Scores 1995-2006
- 2006 Weighted Scores by Department
- Weighted Scores by Value, Ease, and Information 1995-2006
- Weighted Scores by Safety, Beauty, and Livability 1996-2006
- Weighted Scores by Direct Employee Contact 1995-2006

Ms. Miller said that as before, city staff will follow up with citizens about the survey responses. She said that it is recommended that next year, Council consider participation in the National Citizen Survey, a service provided by ICMA. The survey is administered every other year in the fall, and results are reported to the locality. The survey is designed to coordinate with ICMA's Performance Measurement program in which the city is already a participant. The cost is \$8,500-\$10,000. The option to participate in the NCS could be considered at budget time.

Mayor Zeidler said the citizen survey is very helpful to staff and Council to get a snapshot of what citizens are thinking. Ms. Miller commented the response rate was somewhat lower this year.

Ms. Miller said there are pros and cons to using the NCS. She estimated that the city's current administrative costs for the in-house survey were about \$1,000. Mr. Haulman thought the actual staff cost was more and he could see the benefits of the NCS, especially for annual surveys.

Mr. Freiling noted that some citizens may not have interacted with a city department. Mr. Tuttle noted that people are asked to pick a department that they have had contact with and rate that department. Mr. Freiling said the city provides more services than other communities around it. He said that the national survey may provide the opportunity to benchmark with other communities.

Mr. Tuttle said that staff felt it was time to move to the National Citizen Survey and recommended that Council consider participation during budget time.

Preview of February 8, 2007 Council Meeting

No additional information was requested.

City Council Communications

Wall Street Journal Advertisement: Ms. DeWitt said that the city partnered with the Hampton Road Economic Development Alliance to place the ad promoting the Hampton Roads region and highlighting Williamsburg. The city was pleased with the ad and for the recognition as a place to do business.

Recognition: Mr. Chohany recognized and thanked Planning Commissioner Jesse Young for his service and leadership on the commission, particularly during the Comprehensive Plan update process. Douglas Pons is now the chairman.

Regional issues Committee: Mr. Freiling provided an update on the activities of the Committee. The Historic Triangle Corridor Enhancement Group's next project will be Route

60 from Busch Gardens into Lafayette Street. The three jurisdictions are partnering, along with the Chamber and Tourism Alliance, to encourage private property owners to enhance their property and streetscape along the road. The Committee will be looking at affordability of housing in the area from a regional perspective, and later in the spring and summer will inventory the real need in the community. This will tie into the coordination of the Comprehensive Plans. The Mayor pointed out that Mr. Freiling currently chairs the committee.

Schedule of Meetings: February 2007

Council member received the monthly meeting calendar.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

Terrence Wehle, Harriet Tubman Drive, addressed Council regarding citizen attendance and involvement in past Planning Commission meetings when density issues were discussed. Citizens raised questions about traffic, density, and character, but there was no vote at that time. Part of the discord that is going on now about density was because the density issue was not specifically discussed at the Commission level. He submitted 27 additional signatures to the “Stop 22” petition.

Nancy Sparling, 3 Bayberry Lane, informed Council that eight people met yesterday and read the Comprehensive Plan. Seven of the eight were present. They asked that Council pause as they make their decisions and let the citizens see Council’s full vision. She was listening to the comments about the sewer system and recycling issues. Please pause and “Remember the Alamo.”

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing two personnel matters concerning appointments to boards and commissions per subparagraph one, and one legal matter per subparagraph 7 for the purpose of consultation on specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel concerning FOIA. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The Mayor called a five-minute recess.

At 4:07 p.m. Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

OPEN MEETING

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: February 5, 2007

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Freiling

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Process: Council discussed possible scenarios to address public concerns expressed about the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, especially the issues of residential density and development along commercial corridors in the city. Members discussed ways to improve the process for public dialog. Council members concurred to modify the schedule for the Comprehensive Plan implementation process. When the Planning Commission makes its recommendation to City Council, Council will take the time it needs to consider the issues and to hold its public hearing, before moving forward to the next implementation section of the Plan. Mayor Zeidler will make the announcement at the February 8 Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Adopted: March 8, 2007

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council

